



Habitat Information Tracking System



Dec 9, 2009

Project Overview

Project: (44608) Solberg Wetland Restoration

Type: Habitat Improvement
Orgcode: (51120) DELAWARE BAY ESTUARY PROJECT
Entered By: Richard Mccorkle, 3026539152
Point of Contact: Richard McCorkle
Creation Date: Aug 28, 2007
Status: Completed
Completion Date: Apr 2007
State: Delaware
FWS Region: 5

Project Narrative:

DBEP assisted a private landowner with a 2-acre wetland restoration project in Kent County, Delaware. The project is located at the site of a former "tax ditch." There are over 2,000 miles of tax ditches in Delaware. These are legally-recognized ditches which were constructed to facilitate agriculture in low-lying areas, on the Coastal Plain. Their construction over many decades has resulted in the loss of many thousands of acres of non-tidal wetlands in Delaware. The term "tax ditch" refers to the tax which is levied against farmers whose cropland is drained by such a ditch. The farmer pays an amount relative to the linear feet of ditch on his property, and the money is used for periodic ditch maintenance. This wetland restoration project represents the first publicly-recorded, legal abandonment of a tax ditch in Delaware's history. The land surrounding the restored wetland was taken out of agricultural production several decades ago, and is now dominated by contiguous, mixed oak-pine forest, with bottomland hardwood swamp inclusions. The wetland restoration involved obliterating a couple hundred feet of ditch, restoring bottomland swamp pit-and-mound topography, and installing 2 water control structures and a low earthen dam, to maintain 3 different water levels, mimicking beaver impoundments with a high degree of topographic and vegetative diversity. DBEP provided technical assistance, and paid for a custom native grass/wildflower seed mix and native trees and shrubs. Plant materials were planted on hummocks, along wetland edges, and in an upland buffer surrounding the wetland. The restored wetland and buffer will support wood ducks which are nesting nearby, as well as other forest- and wetland-dependent species. The earth-moving work was carried out by the Kent Conservation District, and was paid for through grant money from EPA, administered by the Delaware Division of Soil and Water Conservation. The landowner also contributed funding, time and materials, and organized 2 volunteer tree-planting efforts. The landowner has protected the wetland and surrounding forest in perpetuity, through a permanent conservation easement.

Public Description:

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service assisted a private landowner with a 2-acre wetland restoration project in Kent County, Delaware. The project is located at the site of a former "tax ditch." There are over 2,000 miles of tax ditches in Delaware. These are legally-recognized ditches which were constructed to facilitate agriculture in low-lying areas, on the Coastal Plain. Their construction over many decades has resulted in the loss of many thousands of acres of non-tidal wetlands in Delaware. The term "tax ditch" refers to the tax which is levied against farmers whose cropland is drained by such a ditch. The farmer pays an amount relative to the linear feet of ditch on his property, and the money is used for periodic ditch maintenance. This wetland restoration project represents the first publicly-recorded, legal abandonment of a tax ditch in Delaware's history. The land surrounding the restored wetland was taken out of agricultural production several decades ago, and is now dominated by contiguous, mixed oak-pine forest, with bottomland hardwood swamp inclusions. The wetland restoration involved obliterating a couple hundred feet of ditch, restoring bottomland swamp pit-and-mound topography, and installing 2 water control structures and a low earthen dam, to maintain 3 different water levels, mimicing beaver impoundments with a high degree of topographic and vegetative diversity. DBEP provided technical assistance, and paid for a custom native grass/wildflower seed mix and native trees and shrubs. Plant materials were planted on hummocks, along wetland edges, and in an upland buffer surrounding the wetland. The restored wetland and buffer will support wood ducks which are nesting nearby, as well as other forest- and wetland-dependent species. The earth-moving work was carried out by the Kent Conservation District, and was paid for through grant money from the Environmental Protection Agency, administered by the Delaware Division of Soil and Water Conservation. The landowner also contributed funding, time and materials, and organized 2 volunteer tree-planting efforts. The landowner has protected the wetland and surrounding forest in perpetuity, through a permanent conservation easement.

Project mechanism(s):

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Title: Cooperative Agreement between USFWS and Ducks Unlimited
Mechanism Type: Cooperative Agreement | 2. Title: Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Mechanism Type: Cooperative Agreement |
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Mechanism: Cooperative Agreement between USFWS and Ducks Unlimited

Title: Cooperative Agreement between USFWS and Ducks Unlimited

Mechanism Type: Cooperative Agreement

Agreement No.: 1448-50181-98-J-073

Primary Non-FWS Party: NGO/Land Trust

Date of Mechanism: May 19, 2003

Length of Mechanism: 5 years

Funds Obligated Date: May 2003

Funding Source Fiscal Year: 2003

Mechanism: Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

Title: Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

Mechanism Type: Cooperative Agreement

Agreement No.: 50181-8-J066

Primary Non-FWS Party: Private Individual

Date of Mechanism: May 02, 2003

Length of Mechanism: 5 years

Funds Obligated Date: May 2003

Funding Source Fiscal Year: 2005

Mechanism accomplishment(s):

1. **Title:** Solberg Wetland Restoration

Habitat Type: Wetland

Accomplishment Type: Restoration

Accomplishment: Solberg Wetland Restoration

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Mechanism: Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

Coordinates: Longitude: -75.735833333, Latitude: 39.10194444

Watershed (HUC): CHOPTANK

Congressional District: DE00

Michael N. Castle (R)

County: Kent

State: Delaware

FWS Region: 5 - Region 5

FWS Ecoregion: Chesapeake Bay/Susquehanna River

Joint Venture Area: Atlantic Coast Joint Venture

Accomplishment Status: Final

Accomplishment Type: Restoration

Habitat Type: Wetland

Habitat Class: Palustrine

Habitat Sub-Class: Forested Wetland

Completion Date: Apr 14, 2007

Primary Trust/Resource Benefits: Migratory Birds

Secondary Trust/Resource Benefits: Non-Federal Trust Species

Overlay Protection Holder: Private Individual

Protected in perpetuity? yes

Accomplishment area(s):

1. Title: Solberg Wetland Restoration

Primary Non-FWS Party: Private Individual

Area: Solberg Wetland Restoration

Accomplishment: Solberg Wetland Restoration**Area: Solberg Wetland Restoration**

Primary Non-FWS Party: Private Individual

Fiscal Year of Work: 2007

Association: 1 EPA 319 (nonpoint source grants)

Treatment / Technique: 1 Ditch Plug Installation/Removal

Est. Acres Before: 0.0

Acres Before: 0.0

Est. Acres After: 2.0

Acres After: 2.0

Area sub-activity(s):

FWS Sub-Activity: Coastal Program - 1124

Contribution Fiscal Year: 2007

Funding Source Fiscal Year: 2005

Est. Cash: \$1716.00

Cash: \$1716.00

Est. FWS Days: 5.0

FWS Days: 5.0

Area ITIS species:	
Species Name: Hyla chrysoscelis Common Name: Cope's Gray Treefrog	Species Name: Ardea herodias Common Name: Great Blue Heron
Species Name: Aix sponsa Common Name: Wood Duck	Species Name: Buteo lineatus Common Name: Red-shouldered Hawk
Species Name: Coccyzus americanus Common Name: Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Species Name: Strix varia Common Name: Barred Owl
Species Name: Dryocopus pileatus Common Name: Pileated Woodpecker	Species Name: Myiarchus crinitus Common Name: Great Crested Flycatcher
Species Name: Empidonax virens Common Name: Acadian Flycatcher	Species Name: Contopus virens Common Name: Eastern Wood-Pewee
Species Name: Mnioilta varia Common Name: Black-and-white Warbler	Species Name: Protonotaria citrea Common Name: Prothonotary Warbler
Species Name: Seiurus motacilla Common Name: Louisiana Waterthrush	Species Name: Oporornis formosus Common Name: Kentucky Warbler
Species Name: Icteria virens Common Name: Yellow-breasted Chat	Species Name: Vireo flavifrons Common Name: Yellow-throated Vireo
Species Name: Vireo olivaceus Common Name: Red-eyed Vireo	Species Name: Hylocichla mustelina Common Name: Wood Thrush
Species Name: Polioptila caerulea Common Name: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Species Name: Piranga olivacea Common Name: Scarlet Tanager

Area monitoring:
Staff Days: 2.0 Fiscal Year: 2007

Total Area

Total Project Area By Habitat Type
Est. Wetland Acres After: 2.0 Wetland Acres After: 2.0

Total Project Area
Est. Acres After: 2.0 Acres After: 2.0

Total Contributions

Total Service Contribution to Project By Habitat Type

Est. Wetland Cash: \$1716.00

Wetland Cash: \$1716.00

Est. Wetland FWS Days: 5.0

Wetland FWS Days: 5.0

Total Service Contribution to Project

Est. Cash: \$1716.00

Cash: \$1716.00

Est. FWS Days: 5.0

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